

Saint Louis Audubon Society

PINE BUTTE SWAMP PRESERVE
Blaine Ulmer

89

The very name of this place has intrigued me since I read about it in The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Magazine. Some day I had to see it. Janet and I decided that May, 1988 was the time to do it.

For those of you non-members of TNC I will locate the Preserve by stating it lies along Montana's Rocky Mountain Front just south of Glacier National Park. The closest town is Choteau, MT. No - I did not misspell it! The Preserve consists of some 17,500 acres, including plains, mountains, foothills, and wetlands. The prime reason TNC acquired the property was to protect one of the last places in the lower 48 states where grizzly bears still routinely venture out onto the plains, their native habitat. I can state with some mixed emotion that we did not see a grizzly doing its routine thing while we were there. In addition to grizzlies the Preserve is home to mountain lions, bobcats, black bears, lynx, white-tailed deer, and over two dozen smaller species of mammals. Bird watchers have a field day watching sand hill cranes, upland plovers, long-billed curlews - some 125 species have been identified. Our personal count was 81 in the Preserve and vicinity - including four life birds, thanks to the de-lumpers; white-tailed ptarmigan, Grant's grebe, red-naped sapsucker, and gray partridge. If your game is to crawl on your belly over sharp, fist-sized rocks photographing wild flowers this is the place. I'm not normally so "inclined", but there were so many to be seen that I couldn't resist.

One bit of trivia for your next cocktail party - or wherever good naturalists gather. This Preserve contains the largest fen in Montana. What is the difference between a fen and a bog?----times up - both contain peat, but a fen is alkaline or neutral while a bog is acidic. Aren't you glad you read this far?

Not all of the Preserve is dedicated to the living. The recently publicized "Egg Mountain" contains the first dinosaur eggs discovered in the Western Hemisphere, as well as the first baby dinosaurs in nests discovered anywhere in the world! We visited the site and we each had the unusual sensation of finding and holding a minute bit of egg shell that was laid and hatched millions of years ago.

Did we sleep in a cave or hollow tree while we were there? Not at all! We enjoyed the excellent accommodations, food, and good fellowship at the Pine Butte Guest Ranch. This ranch is situated in the Preserve with the Teton River flowing alongside the cabins. A lovely location.

Our week passed much too quickly. Each day we visited a different location led by two ornithologists from Montana State University and a botanist, who was co-manager of the Preserve. This is a unique place and if you are interested in a most pleasant, all around, nature experience we recommend Pine Butte Swamp Preserve.

CALENDER OF EVENTS



Nature Along the Mexican Border

Dick Massey

Friday, March 17, 1989

Dick Massey has photographed wildlife above and below the Mexican border. Scuba diving afforded breathtaking views of tropical fish and other marine life in Baja. An underwater ballet was performed by dozens of sea lions. Crossing into Arizona, he documented desert animals in their struggle for survival. Southeast Arizona is depicted as the hummingbird capital of the U.S.

Yellowstone

Dale Johnson

Friday, April 7, 1989

Yellowstone as documented by Dale Johnson: Spring birds return; baby badgers appear; moose calves gambol. "Tom The Terrible Tourist" attempts to see the entire Park in one day. Trumpeter swans chase an intruder; elk cows play tag; grizzly bears confront a coyote. Bighorn sheep begin mating battles; otters frolic on ice and snow.



CALENDER OF EVENTS - cont.

- MARCH 3
FRIDAY 8:00 PM WGNSS meeting at Oak Bend Branch Library. Karen Haller presents slide show illustrating unique flora and fauna of five locations in India.
- MARCH 4
SATURDAY 8:00 AM Saturday birding walks for beginners at Busch Wildlife Area. Meet at Knight's Lake parking lot approx. 0.2 miles west of Busch HQ parking. Bring binoculars, lunch, beverage. To get there: Take 40 west across the Missouri River, south on 94 to D, turn right for 1 mile to the HQ.
- MARCH 12
SUNDAY Education Center monthly Open House. 10:00 AM - 3 PM. Program begins at 1:30 PM. Bill Summers: "Edible Spring Greens" an illustrated 35 mm slide show plus a walk around the grounds to identify the actual plants.
- MARCH 17
FRIDAY FILM ADVENTURE SERIES. Dick Massey.
Nature Along the Mexican Border. Webster Grpves Christian Church at 8:00 PM.
- MARCH 18
SATURDAY WATERFOWL WATCH A spring migration time. Held at Raccoon Ranch. 8:00 AM. Leaders: Cis and Charlie Hager, 938-5586. To get there enter St. Charles by way of the old bridge via the St. Charles Rock Rd. Turn right off of the bridge onto 94. Follow 94 out of town and travel approx. 12 miles to Reese Rd. Turn left and go straight to the ranch. Bring your binoculars, lunch and dress for the weather.
- APRIL 1
SATURDAY 8:00 AM. Saturday birding walks at Busch Wildlife Area. For details see March 4.
- APRIL 7
FRIDAY FILM ADVENTURE SERIES. Yellowstone by Dale Johnson. Webster Groves Christian Church at 8:00 PM.
- APRIL 9
SUNDAY Monthly Education Center Open House. 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM Program at 1:30 PM. Donna Ford...recently returned from her Missouri Botanical Garden study in Chile, presents "Chile..Land of the Calandrinia". Come and learn what a calandrinia really is. See it pictured on 35 mm slides before your very eyes.
- APRIL 24
MONDAY Annual Spring Banquet Date. Mark your calenders and save that day for another exciting evening. To be held at the Viking located at Lindbergh and Watson Rd. Program to be announced soon.

AUDUBON SOCIETY OF MISSOURI
SPRING MEETING

ST. CHARLES COUNTY APRIL 28-30, 1989
HOST: ST. LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY

We wish to extend an invitation to our Audubon friends across the state for a weekend of exciting bird adventures, good food and grand fellowship in the St. Louis area. Paul Bauer, President
St. Louis Audubon

Agenda

Friday, April 28: No formal program. Participants will arrive in St. Louis Friday evening or early Saturday morning (See following list of campgrounds and motels.)

Saturday, April 29:

Breakfast: On your own. We suggest:

PoFolks Restaurant (open 6 a.m.) Located next to the Econo Lodge, north side of Zumbuhl Exit, #227 from I-70.)

Noah's Ark (open 6:30 a.m.) (I-70 at 5th St., exit 229. See (B) on map.)

Field Trips: all trips leave from the parking lot of the Econo Lodge, 3040 West Clay, St. Charles. (Northside of Zumbuhl Exit, #227, off of I-70. See (B) on map.)

1. 7:00 a.m. Birding. Marais Temps Clair & St. Charles County birding hotspots. Rails (sora, King & Virginia), migrating warblers, vireos, bitterns, flycatchers, possible Black Terns, Short-eared Owl, Yellow-headed Black Bird. (Marsh & Mississippi River area.)

2. 7:00 a.m. Birding. August A. Busch Wildlife Area, St. Charles County. Migrating warblers, vireos, tanagers, wrens, early shorebirds, orioles, etc. (Oak-hickory forest, manmade impoundments, large lakes, shorebird area, riparian habitat, open fields.)

3. 7:00 a.m. Birding. Forest Park & Tower Grove Park, St. Louis City. Kennedy Woods of Forest Park is consistently the best local area for migrating Eastern Warblers, including possible Black-throated Blue, Cape May, Hooded, Mourning, and Connecticut, as well as tanagers, vireos, wrens, thrushes, flycatchers, etc.

4. 8:00 a.m. Wild Flower Walk. Missouri Botanical Garden's Shaw Arboretum, Gray Summit, for abundant spring wildflowers (if enough demand). Several miles of walking trails, wear comfortable shoes and plan to carry your lunch in a knapsack!

5. 8:00 a.m. Birding. Horseshoe Lake, Granite City, Illinois, (if enough demand). Waders, herons, egrets, bitterns, ducks, early shorebirds, some warblers, orioles.

Lunch: We suggest you bring a cooler with you and your own lunch "fixings" so you can spend most of the day in the field. Field trips will return to the St. Charles area around 3-4 p.m. each day depending on the group & the birds.

Meetings: 1:00 p.m. Audubon Council of Missouri.
4:00 p.m. A.S.M. Board of Directors.
Meetings will be held in the Banquet Room, Noah's Ark.

Saturday Evening:

6:00 p.m. Dinner, Business Meeting & Program: Noah's Ark, I-70 at 5th Street, St. Charles, (Exit 229, see (A) on map.)
Dress: casual. Buffet will cost around \$12.00 plus tax and gratuity. Program: "Seeking the Horned Guan", a backpacking adventure by Paul Bauer to a high altitude cloud forest in El Triunfo, southern Mexico.

Sunday, April 30:

Breakfast: On your own; see Sat. a.m. notes.

Field trips to Busch Wildlife Area and Marais Temps Clair will be repeated, possibly also to Forest Park, if enough demand. See Saturday a.m. for meeting place & times.

Lunch: Final meeting and lunch at 12 noon, PoFolks Restaurant, 3000 W. Clay, St. Charles, (next to the Econo Lodge, northside of Zumbehl Exit, #227, from I-70. See (B) on map.) Final wrap up, announcements, and bird list compilation.

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Campgrounds: Twin Island Lake & Campground. Private (Good Sumpark Chain). 3 miles west of the junction of U.S. 40-61 and S.R. 94 on north side of U.S. 40-61. Near Busch Wildlife Area. 250 sites (rated above average). Restrooms & showers, dumping station, security, pay phone, laundry, groceries, ice, snacks. Rates: \$9.50 - \$14.00 (1987). Phone 314/447-0011.

Cherokee Lakes & Campgrounds. Private (rural, wooded flatlands). 7.3 miles north on S.R. 79 from the junction with I-70 (8 miles west of St. Charles). 100 sites (rated below average). Restrooms & showers plus other amenities as listed above under Twin Island Lake. Rates: \$10.75 (1987). Phone: 314/281-2147

Fort Zumwalt (City Park), O'Fallon, MO. Public (suburban, grassy flatlands). About 11 miles west of St. Charles. Exit I-70 at O'Fallon, go south 2 blocks (Main Street) to park. 40 sites (no rating). Restrooms & showers, dump station, ice, firewood, campfires, BBQ. Rates \$5.00 (1987). Phone 314/272-3911. (No reservations).

Motels: We have booked a block of rooms at the Econo Lodge, 3040 West Clay, St. Charles, Zumbehl Exit #227 off of I-70. Rooms are clean, comfortable, attractive. Rates: 1 person, 1 bed = \$32.78; 2 persons, 2 beds = \$34.70; 4 persons, 2 double beds = \$36.70. (all rates include tax). Phone: 314/946-9992. Be sure to tell them that you are with the Audubon Soc. of Missouri to get this reduced rate!

There are many hotels/motels along I-70 in this area but the above has the most reasonable rates for a comfortable place and it is next door to PoFolks Restaurant.

Other recommended motels along I-70:

Best Western Motor Inn (Noah's Ark) I-70 & 5th Street, St. Charles. 314/946-1000. Rooms are \$35.00 and up for a single & \$40.00 and up for a double if 10 or more rooms are booked.

Holiday Inn, 4221 S. Outer Rd., Cave Springs Exit, (next exit west of Zumbuhl exit), St. Peters, MO. 314/928-1500.

YOU MUST MAKE YOUR OWN MOTEL RESERVATIONS! We have reserved a block of 25 rooms at the Econo Lodge and would encourage you to stay there; however, you are welcome to stay anywhere.

PLEASE FILL OUT THE REGISTRATION FORM BELOW AND MAIL IT TO:

Mary Lou Miller, Treasurer
3927 Lucas & Hunt Road
St. Louis, MO 63121

I/we am/are planning on attending the Spring ASM Meeting in St. Louis, April 28-30, 1989. I/we am/are arriving
/ / Friday p.m., / / early Saturday a.m.

I/we have made reservations at / / the Econo Lodge,
/ / another motel (_____), / / will be
camping (_____ campground), / / do not need lodging.

Please make _____ reservations in my name for the Dinner Banquet on Saturday, April 29.

I am interested in the following field trips:

Saturday:

_____ Busch Wildlife Area _____ Marais Temps Clair
_____ Forest Park/Tower Gr. _____ Arboretum, Gray Summit
_____ Horseshoe Lake

Sunday:

_____ Busch Wildlife Area _____ Marais Temps Clair
_____ Forest Park/Tower Grove Park

I/we will _____ I/we will not _____ be staying for the final lunch on Sunday.

I have enclosed a deposit of \$ _____ (\$10.00 per person for each Banquet reservation. Checks should be made out to "St. Louis Audubon Society" and marked "Banquet, Spring ASM Meeting."

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Phone: _____ No. of persons _____

STRATEGIC PLANNING - Cont.

- D. We will promote and support the protection/conservation of natural systems by informing and educating governmental decision-makers, legislators, & media personnel.
- E. We will catalyze support for conservation and environmental research on projects that address our chapter goals and are of special interest to our members.
- F. We will efficiently operate a chapter facility that will effectively assist the implementation of our chapter's Strategic Plan and serve as a focal point for chapter activities and functions.
- G. We will conduct fundraising activities to make needed major building improvements or to cover the cost of new facility construction and to support educational and research demands.

The Board is to vote on acceptance or modification of the Plan at its next meeting in March.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

This committee, under Karen Haller, has been busy. Just look at the calendar of events. In addition, Karen will be giving her own slide program on India showing the unique flora and fauna in five varied locations in that large nation. She will present this program at the Webster Groves Nature Study Society meeting, March 3rd, 8:00 PM in the Oak Bend Branch Library.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Bill Salsgiver's committee has also been very active. They attended an open meeting sponsored by US Fish and Wildlife Service concerning management of US wildlife refuges. St. Louis Audubon will take a position on this matter and as results of the hearing become known we will report in the Bulletin. However, there are two bills coming up for action in the Missouri Legislature that will require immediate Audubon and individual member action. The first is S.B. 99, the comprehensive solid waste management bill. This measure outlaws certain non-degradable plastics in

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE - cont.

packaging, forbids those made with CFCs sets State procurement on the course of using recycled materials, and requires recycling in and by all State government offices. The other is House Bill 133, proposed "Missouri Water Resource Law". This bill directs the Department of Natural Resources to develop a state water use plan encompassing both surface and groundwater supplies. The plan is subject to revision every five years. The Committee recommends support of both bills. If you have any questions concerning these bills and the suggested course of action call Bill Salsgiver at 225-1490. Bill also advises that he is looking for more members on the Committee. They meet the first Tuesday of the month.

SPRING RIVER CONFERENCE

This conference of the West Central Region will meet March 16 - 20 at Kearney, NE. The prime attraction is to see tens of thousands of sandhill cranes that utilize the Audubon Lillian Annette Rowe Sanctuary on the Platte River. In addition, you have the opportunity to share the weekend with other Auduboners of this region. If you are interested call Blaine Ulmer, 966-5425 for reservation forms.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

January is the month of the changing of the guard in Washington. Not to be outdone a major change has occurred in St. Louis Audubon. Cis Hager, who has been editor of the Bulletin since Connie Hath retired, has asked to be relieved of this duty. Along with her Audubon involvement she has been an active member of the Raptor Rehabilitation and Recovery Program, and, most important, she is involved in the daily doings of two school age children.

Cis will be a hard act to follow. She took over at a time when new people, new policies, and new programs were being initiated into St. Louis Audubon. Through her direction the Bulletin has become a conduit, not only of information for local programs, but matters pertaining to conservation, education, photography, regional and national Audubon activity, were brought to the attention of the membership.

Now comes Blaine Ulmer, hat in hand, offering to try to do the job. Cis has been very helpful to me and will continue to be available. However, if this Bulletin is to have value I am going to need help from the membership. With 2500 members St. Louis Audubon must possess talent, knowledge, and experience that will be helpful to the organization as a whole. So, if you've got some skill, or know something, or you've seen something that is nature oriented (particularly birds), that may be of interest to the other members contact me. We'll publicize it if we can.

CALL THE AUDUBON NUMBER FOR THE LATEST EVENTS.

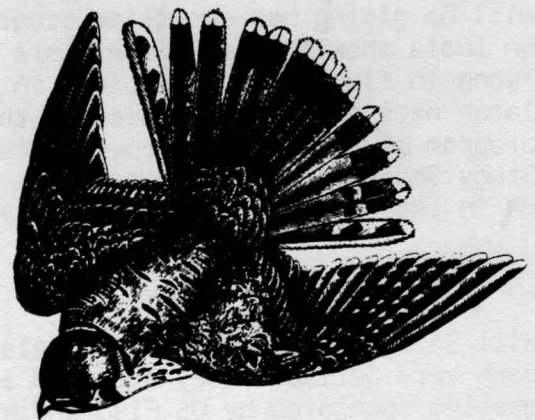
938-6123

We need HELP!! Ideally this is a service that an individual monitors for a month and then someone else will takeover. However, it requires a touch tone phone. If you can help call Mark Peters, 296-8159.

SAINT LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN 1988-1989

Paul Bauer - President 921-3972
David Tylka - Vice President 296-1419
Eugenia Larson - Secretary 434-1190
Mary Lou Miller - Treasurer 389-3969

James Campbell 961-3236
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Ralph Cook 843-7720
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Karen Haller - Programs 227-5693
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Al C. Lodwick - Photography 968-8072
Mark Peters - 296-8159
William Salsgiver - Conservation 225-1490
Marilyn Stobbs 966-6297
Wm. J. toole - Annual Dinner 822-9143
Blaine A. Ulmer - Editor 966-5425
Wm. E. Wiese 965-2310
Betty Williams - Correspondence 968-9694



What am I?